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Testimony to **Portland City Council** on the **Shelter to Housing Continuum Project, Recommended Draft**

Portland has housing shelter solutions, and with S2HC code changes, we will be ramping up the available opportunities for managed homeless shelters. We are all about compassion for the homeless and we are trying to work with S2HC proposals but neither their proposals nor bill 3112 have language that addresses concern for the needs and rights of community members who own homes and businesses, or raise children in our neighborhoods, particularly in East Portland. If we are building more resources for the homeless then we do not also need to eliminate this ordinance. This is an extremely complicated issue, and I don't claim to have all of the solutions. That said, our city has a tremendous problem with homeless tents, garbage, pollution, sanitary and sewage issues. It seems that COVID closures and winter has exacerbated the issue, but it is becoming unrecognizable. My son and husband picked up 5lbs of trash in a short walk around our neighborhood, I found a syringe and bottle of urine across the street from my house, and my son's preschool had human feces on the walkway into the building. These are very small examples, we of course all see the larger problems as well: huge campsites with broken down cars and RV's along side the I-84 onramp at 122nd and N Marine Drive and countless others, and the entire freeway along I-84 through East Portland is a proverbial dump site with trash strewn down the side of the slope. This is unacceptable. And, I don't know if concentrating new camps in our East County communities is the solution. This is a problem for the entire community: neighbors and those who are living in these camps. This simply cannot be a viable solution that we all just deem as "it is what it is" or "this is the best we can do". We MUST do better. This should be approached like the emergency that it is. Here are some proposed ideas: 1) Create a revised map showing equitable distribution of potential shelter spaces in ALL Portland communities. Even if SE has more potential spaces, they should be removed from the map until a balance of ALL communities is shown. 2) No permanent changes to the codes at this time. Let Title 15 expire so that random camping is no longer allowed and extend a new emergency declaration to allow these new codes to be enacted temporarily under the new emergency time frame (no longer than one year). 3) An enforcement plan must be delineated and be expressly coupled to this action so that as new managed shelters are established, random camps are shut down, removed, cleaned up and then monitored so they can not reestablish. 4) A detailed description of what the management plan is for each site and who, specifically, is responsible for its implementation, and results needs to be published before any vote is taken. 5) Continue best practice research of what other cities have done to find solutions to this problem. We cannot keep going down the same paths that have not produced positive outcomes and keep asking our communities to bear the brunt of

these issues. We must keep innovating and doing better. This is not about making it harder for homeless people. This is about doing that good work that considers the rights of all. I think that is reasonable. Thank you for your time.

Testimony is presented without formatting.